

## Message Text

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20

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 INR-05 SY-02 PRS-01 PM-03

SP-01 A-01 PER-01 DODE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /046 W

----- 069752

R 150716Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4735

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 275

LIMDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK, BC, SA, SF, LT

SUBJECT: RHODESIA CONSTITUTIONAL DISPUTE

REF: CAPE TOWN 267

1. FOREIGN MINISTER KOTSOKOANE INFORMED ME IN CONFIDENCE ON MARCH 14 THAT THE OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE WOULD CONCENTRATE ALL OF ITS RESOURCES ON RHODESIA IF THE PRESENT PEACEFUL EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE CONSTITUTION DISPUTE FAILED. ACCORDING TO KOTSO-KOANE THIS IS ONE REASON PRIME MINISTER VORSTER HAD BEEN REQUESTED TO WITHDRAW SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE FROM RHODESIA AS THE AFRICANS DID NOT WANT A CONFRONTATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA. THE MINISTER ADDED THAT MOZAMBIQUE WOULD SUPPORT OPERATIONS AGAINST RHODESIA AND THAT BOTSWANA AND TANZANIA WERE LIKELY TO DO THE SAME. KOTSOKOANE STATED THAT ANY GOVERNMENT THAT COULD PERSUADE VORSTER TO WITHDRAW HIS POLICEMEN AND ENCOURAGE

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SMITH TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING WOULD BE CONTRIBUTING TO PEACE

IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

2. KOTSOKOANE TOLD ME THAT ANC VICE PRESIDENT GABELLAH WOULD BE VISITING LESOTHO MARCH 17 TO BRIEF THE GOL ON THE RHODESIA SITUATION.

3. COMMENT: BOTSWANA WOULD COME UNDER TREMENDOUS PRESSURE TO ALLOW ITS TERRITORY TO BE USED FOR ATTACKS AGAINST RHODESIA IF CURRENT EFFORTS FOR PEACEFUL CHANGE FAILED. IN THE PAST BOTSWANA HAS RESISTED SUCH PRESSURE ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE USE OF ITS TERRITORY AS A LAUNCHING PAD AGAINST MINORITY REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WOULD THREATEN ITS INDEPENDENCE. BOTSWANA HAS MAINTAINED THAT LOSS OF ITS INDEPENDENCE WOULD IN NO WAY CONTRIBUTE TO THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. HOWEVER GOB DOES NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY EFFECTIVELY RESIST DETERMINED BAND OF TERRORISTS AND MAY NOT IN FACT HAVE THE WILL TO DO SO IF ITS CURRENT EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE RHODESIA CONSTITUTIONAL DISPUTE FAILED.  
BOLEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICE FORCES, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**To:** STATE  
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